



Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes

March 8, 2012

Purpose: The Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) meets to serve citizens and partner with City staff and elected officials to promote bicycle improvements in Edina for education, encouragement, infrastructure, enforcement, and ongoing assessment. We support implementation of the approved [City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) that serves all levels of bicyclists, connects key destinations including safe routes to schools, and integrates with the Twin Cities' regional bike network. Our **vision** is a progressive bicycle-friendly community where citizens can integrate cycling into their daily lives.

Time & Location: BETF monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Edina City Hall. For questions contact Peter Kelley, Chair. Guests are welcome.

Distribution: BETF, guests, City Manager, City Engineer, Edina Police BETF Liaison Sgt. Timothy Olson, SHIP contact Robyn Wiesman, and Mayor & City Council. Also, Jack Sullivan to forward to the Edina Transportation Commission, and Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission.

- **Present:** Alex Johnson, Jennifer Janovy, Peter Kelley, Tom Randall, Larry Olson, Brad Schaeppi, Carl Follstad, Kirk Johnson
- **Absent:** Alice Hulbert, Carl Gulbranson, Ellen Jones, Don Eyberg, Sally Dunn, Rob Erickson, Marty Mathis
- **Guests:** None
- **Recorded by:** Kirk Johnson & Peter Kelley

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1. **Chair role:** Peter Kelley is now the sole chair for BETF. Brad Schaeppi will continue to serve with the BETF and focus on specific topics at the time. The group thanked Brad for his accomplishments and everyone was comfortable and supportive for Peter's leadership.
 2. **Tracy Avenue project update:** Peter review the project for improvements on Tracy between Vernon and Benton. Bicycle lanes, 5 feet both side. West side will have a full

gutter pan to avoid any longitudinal seam; east side will abut parking lane with bump outs.

- a. Observed that some Tracy neighbors were in favor of the bicycle lanes.
- b. BETF inputs at the meeting: Peter gave a summary commentary at the meeting for rationale in support for bicycle lanes; Alex Johnson also provided an opening set of remarks; Alice Hulbert also spoke in support of the project.
- c. Outcome summary: Council approved the project as proposed however not including the roundabout (vote was passed 4-1 in favor of the project; dissenting vote was because one councilmember was in favor of the roundabout). Timing of the project would be ideally summer-fall 2012. This results in 2,200 feet of road improvements.

3. Bike Boulevard Project

- a. Project is still active, waiting for approval from MNDot.
- b. Advisory lanes are being explored: No center lanes, dotted lines on edge.
- c. Stay tuned for an upcoming open house and plan to attend.

4. Other Infrastructure Improvements

- a. Cahill, West 70th, Valley View, Antrim: Striping project is being planned.
- b. Blake Avenue curve where bicycle lanes disappear: Wayne Houle will be working on this gap later this year (need easement from property owner).
- c. 58th Street improvements (expanding bike lanes to 5 feet): Gutter pans will be put in place but not until improvements are underway for the street overall.

5. Bicycle Racks near 50th and France

- a. Brad Schaeppi agreed to follow-up with Transit for Livable Communities (TLC).
- b. Installations could start soon, depending on action from TLC.
- c. Discussion on how bicycle facilities can help people shift their transportation modes from automobiles to bicycles.

6. Edina Transportation Commission Update

- a. Bloomington Public Heath received \$30,000 for Safe Routes to School to use for Edina. A committee of City and school district, ETC, BETF will likely be formed, led by Robyn Wiesman.
- b. Two new key positions to serve the City:
 - i. City of Edina is hiring a Transportation Planner. The position will be staffed by someone that will provide planning that includes the pedestrian and bicycling experience.
 - ii. City of Edina is hiring a Public Works Director.
 - iii. For both positions, the BETF recommends that this person has expertise with bicycle facilities. Peter Kelley advised that BETF Chair or delegate to have periodic interactions with people in these key positions.

7. Bicycle Rodeo

- a. April 21st 10 a.m. to noon at Cornelia Elementary.

- b. Larry Olson continues to lead this.
- c. Contact Larry for volunteering and sign up; the more volunteers the better. It is a fun job and you will get trained at the beginning of the event.
- d. Carl Follstad will follow-up with Sun Current for preparation for this event.

8. Tour de Edina

- a. Contemplating locating it on east side of Edina
- b. Meetings are facilitated by Mary Brindle
- c. BETF representative is Marty Mathis and/or Brad Schaeppi

9. “Edina Dialog” Table wanted – Sponsored by the Edina Energy & Environment Commission

- a. Paul Thompson of the EEC has requested BETF participation at this event.
- b. April 19th, Thursday. Tom Randall will assist staffing a table. Carl Follstad will join Tom, depending on travel plans.
- c. BETF members will be reminded to bring items for the table at our April 19th meeting (e.g., banner, maps, T-shirts, wallet cards, etc.). Peter Kelley will send a reminder prior to the next meeting.

10. Other news

- a. City of Minneapolis hired Shaun Murphy as a bicycling coordinator. Peter Kelley advocated having a BETF person to be in contact with this group. All are encouraged to think about it. Kirk Johnson will consider it.
- b. Blog Article Brainstorming: Objective is to have at least two per month. Members are encouraged to select ideas they would like to write about (or add to this list)
 - i. Bicycle rodeo
 - ii. Biking the roundabouts
 - iii. How does my son or daughter begin biking to school
 - iv. Biking to downtown Minneapolis from Edina (transportation)
 - v. Bicycle trails – access from Edina, favorite trails, etc.
 - vi. Biking to the Greenway from Edina
 - vii. Scenic areas
 - viii. Before and after shots (e.g., West 70th Street)
 - ix. Properly locking a bike (Brad S.); using a standard bike rack, alternatives, what’s legal
 - x. Biking in the winter
 - xi. Stopping at stop signs
 - xii. What bring on bicycle trips
 - xiii. Bicycle maintenance tips
 - xiv. “Am I a vehicle or a pedestrian?”
 - xv. New bike racks 50th and France
 - xvi. Project updates – every time there is news
 - xvii. Tracy Avenue project update (e.g., post lane status)

- xxviii. Edina bicycle infrastructure improvements
- xix. Winter maintenance for bicycle lanes and how to report issues
- xx. Enjoying bicycling through all ages (e.g., a senior perspective, kid perspective)
- xxi. Shopping with your bike
- xxii. Helmets – proper fit, angle
- xxiii. Humor, positive...
- xxiv. Business experience for bicycle friendly
- xxv. Interesting experience (“Today on my bike...”)
- xxvi. Getting a ticket (Marty Mathis)
- xxvii. Getting passed by other bikers (Tom)
- xxviii. Putting your bike on the bus